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UNCLAS LILONGWE 000407

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [KDEM](#) [PINR](#) [MI](#)

SUBJECT: ELECTIONS RESCHEDULED FOR MAY 20

REF: A. 03 LILONGWE 1202

[B](#). LILONGWE 404

[C](#). LILONGWE 405

[D](#). LILONGWE 392

[1](#). (SBU) The Malawi Electoral Commission announced on May 16 that the presidential and parliamentary elections will be held May 20, the earliest date in accordance with the High Court's postponement of the polls (reftel C).

COMMENT

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[2](#). (SBU) A fresh round of criticism of the ruling United Democratic Front's presidential candidate, as well as ground recently lost to the opposition, are certainly factors driving the rescheduling of the elections to earliest possible date (reftel D).

DOUGHERTY